

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Forest Department – Environment Cell – Constitution of District Level Tree Protection Committees to examine the applications for felling of trees in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts – Orders – issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FOREST, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No. 539

Dated:11-12-2008.

Read the following:-

1. From the Prl.CCF., Rc.No.23704/08/PMU-I/1/EC, dt. 17-8-2008.
2. From the Prl.CCF., Rc.No.23704/2008/PMU-I/1/EC, dt. 13-10-2008.

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ORDER :

The President of Forum for a Better Hyderabad has submitted a representation to the Chief Secretary, A.P. Hyderabad with a request to save the trees and expressed their concern at the widespread felling of trees in the Twin Cities, due to lack of forward planning and concern for tree conservation and they have proposed to save trees in the context of the rapid and various development works taking place in the Twin Cities and in the State by Constituting a District Level Committees.

2. The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad who was consulted has also recommended for constituting an Inter Departmental Committee consisting of the Officer from Forest Department, HUDA, GHMC, R & B and NGOs.

3. In the circumstances stated above, Government hereby Constitute
“District Level Tree Protection Committees “with the following:-

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| 1. Addl. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (ENV) | Chairman |
| 2. Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad | Member & Convener |
| 3. Director, urban Forestry, HUDA | Member |
| 4. Divisional Forest officer, Hyderabad | Member |
| 5. Addl. commissioner GHMC (Dealing with
Plantation) | Member |
| 6. Superintendent Engineer (R&B), R.R. District | Member |
| 7. Forum for Better Hyderabad (NGO) | Member |
| 8. World Wide Fund (NGO) | Member |
| 9. United Federation of Residents Welfare
Association (UFRWA) (NGO) | Member |

The functions of the Committee and the Guidelines of the Committee shall be as follows :-

I. Functions of the Committee :-

(The Committee will function for Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts)

- To re-examine permission for tree felling already granted but kept in hold, and give appropriate instructions.
- To examine fresh applications for tree felling and give appropriate instructions.

P.T.O

- To approve a list of transplanting experts and the scale of Charges, which should be periodically revised. The process and technicalities involved in transplanting may be finalized by calling for tenders by the executing Departments under the supervision and technical guidance of Forest Department. The necessary funding will be embarked by the executing Department/Agency.
- For this purpose, tenders may be called for immediately.
- To decide, in terms of species, age, and girth and chances of survival in case of transplantation, which kinds of trees may not be felled at all; which kinds may be allowed to be felled; and which kinds of trees should replace the felled trees.
- To ensure that the guidelines for compensatory plantation where tree felling cannot be avoided, are complied with before giving sanction for felling of trees.
- To comment in respect of each and every case of request for tree felling, as to whether the concerned project authorities had made tree conservation in the project area an essential part of the planning of the project and made it part of its DPR submitted for approval.

II. Guidelines for the Committee for exercising the above functions :-

The Committee will strictly follow the provisions of the WALTA Act and Rules in exercise of its functions.

Subject to compliance with the WALTA Act and Rules, the following guidelines, are laid down for the Committee to observe, while examining requests for tree felling:

- Whether the felling is required for a public purpose. The Committee can consider a request for felling only if it is for a public purpose.
- Provided it is for a public purpose, the Committee will then examine if any modification of the project can be made so as to save the trees, such as realignment of a road, relocation of a construction, redesigning, etc. for this purpose, it may refer to a suitable technical committee, if it cannot decide on its own whether modification is possible, and where the concerned requisitioning authority states that modification is not possible.
- If modification in project so as to save the tree is not possible, the committee will examine the feasibility for transplantation of the tree proposed to be felled. If transplantation is considered feasible, the cost of re-plantation of trees should not be considered a bar and should be transferred to the project authorities as part of the project cost.

P.T.O

- Only in the rarest of rare cases, will trees be allowed to be felled, after all options have been exhaustively explored. In those cases, prior compensatory plantations must be arranged sufficiently in advance.
- Which type of trees may be allowed to be cut, provided project modification or translocation is not possible. Fast growing species like Eucalyptus, Subabul, Gulmohar, Peltophorum, Bauhinia etc., can be allowed to be cut, if it is unavoidable.
Transplanting whole trees should be contemplated for indigenous species like Neem, Tamraind, Peepal, Banyan etc.,

III. Compensatory plantations :-

- Compensatory plantations should be three times the number of tree felled. The species should be better or the same or similar.
- Compensatory plantation should be done by matching species, age, carbon-absorbing capacity, impact on ecosystem, ensuring proximity of plantation area to the sites where trees are felled, so that environment and character of an area are not affected.
- Compensatory plantation should be done at least three years before the felling of the tree which it substitutes.
- At least three or four years old saplings grown in a nursery should be planted against one tree proposed to be cut. For this purpose, nursery should be planted against one tree proposed to be cut.
- For this purpose, nursery can be raised to grow appropriate number and species of trees, so that at least 3 years old trees are readily available to be transplanted when necessary.

The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad is requested to take further necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

JANAKI R. KONDAPI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests,
A.P., Hyderabad.
All Committee Members concerned through Prl. CCF., A.P., Hyderabad.
Copy to P.S. to C.S.
Copy to P.S. to M (EFS&T)
Copy to P.S. to Spl.C.S. EFS&T Dept.
Copy to s/f & s/cs.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER